

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-07 /086 W

-----221221Z 038107 /14

O P 220950Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5598

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0286

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, CU

SUBJECT: CASTRO ARRIVES IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO ARRIVED IN BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, AFTERNOON OF MARCH 21. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, CASTRO WAS WELCOMED AT AIRPORT BY MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MARIO MACHUNGO, MINISTER OF EDUCATION GRACA SIMBINE, AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS JULIO CARRILHO.

2. FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL, PRESS INDICATED THAT CASTRO MET WITH MACHEL FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD AND WAS LATER HOSTED AT A STATE RECEPTION. (PRESS DID NOT REPORT SPEECHES OR TOASTS.) PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CUBAN
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AND MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATIONS, LED BY OSMAN CIENFUEGOS, SECRETARY OF THE CUBAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND JOAQUIM CHASSANO, MOZAMBIQUE'S FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD ALSO COMMENCED SERIES OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

3. CASTRO IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT MAFAMBISSE, AN IMPORTANT SUGAR GROWING AREA IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE, TODAY. NO OTHER

DETAILS ABOUT HIS SCHEDULE WERE REPORTED.

4. PRESS PRAISED THE "DEEP RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP" WHICH "UNITE" THE PEOPLES OF CUBA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND POINTED OUT THAT "FRELIMO AND THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY FORGED RELATIONS OF MILITARY SOLIDARITY MANY YEARS AGO." THESE RELATIONS, THE PAPER DECLARED, ARE BEING REINFORCED MORE AND MORE THROUGH CONTINUING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS EXPECTED CASTRO VISIT, GPRM DID NOT TIP ITS HAND IN ADVANCE. FIRST OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CASTRO VISIT WAS BROADCAST OVER RADIO MOZAMBIQUE ONLY AFTER CASTRO HAD ARRIVED IN BEIRA. TODAY'S NOTICIAS, WHILE DEVOTING A GENEROUS PORTION OF ITS FRONT PAGE TO A PICTURE OF CASTRO AND THE STORY ABOUT HIS ARRIVAL, CONTAINS NO INFORMATION ON HOW LONG CASTRO WILL REMAIN IN MOZAMBIQUE, WHAT OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY HE WILL VISIT OR WHO IS ACCOMPANYING HIM. WE DO NOT THINK CASTRO WILL VISIT MAPUTO SINCE MACHEL AND LARGE NUMBER OF GPRM MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELLED TO BEIRA.
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